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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/367,244 | 08/10/1999 | PIERGIORGIO BENUZZI | BUG2106 | 4118 |

7590 11/20/2006

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| EXAMINER |
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FLORES SANCHEZ, OMAR

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3724

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/367,244

Applicant(s)

BENUZZI, PIERGIORGIO

Examiner

Omar Flores-Sánchez

Art Unit

3724

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 5, 6, 11, 14, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 14, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on 7/21/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ess (4,392,401) in view of Uyema et al (5,571,325) and Ess (4,317,397).

Ess discloses (Fig. 8) the invention substantially as claimed including a horizontal table 12, at least one panel 20, a first movable device 15, a feed direction, a sawing device/a single lengthways cutting axis 10, rotation device (see Fig.5), a plurality of pickup elements 17, guides, drive means and vertical direction (see col.4, line 4-8). Ess doesn't show first drive means to move a first plurality of pickup elements in a horizontal direction independently of the other pickup elements and relative to the movable device, second drive means, a second movable device and a second feed direction. However, Uyema teaches the use of first drive means 114 to move pickup elements (150a-b) relative to the movable device in a horizontal direction independently of each other (Fig. 10-15), guide (201-202) and second drive means 116 for the purpose of decreasing the time required for processing a substrate. It would have been obvious

Art Unit: 3724

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Ess's movable device by providing first drive means to move pickup elements relative to the movable device in the horizontal direction independently of the other pickup elements, the guide and second drive means as taught by Uyema in order to decrease the time required for processing a panel and to easily modifying an order of processing a panel.

Regarding the second movable device and the second feed direction, the Ess'397 teaches the use of second movable device and a second feed direction for the purpose of increasing the production by reducing the time of processing the panel. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Ess's device by providing the second movable device and the second feed direction as taught by Ess'379 in order to increase the production by reducing the time of processing the panel.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 5 and 6 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Ess nor Ueyama do not show pickups elements moving relative to the movable device in the feed direction or opposite direction and bi-directional parallel to the feed direction. However, Ueyama teaches the pickups elements 150a-b moving relative to the movable device 115 in the feed direction Y or opposite direction X and bi-directional parallel to the feed direction (see Fig. 11-14).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

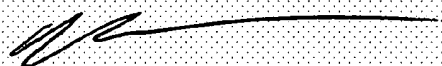
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Flores-Sánchez whose telephone number is 703-308-0167. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3724

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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October 15, 2004



KENNETH E. PETERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER